

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed October 31, 2006, Applicants respectfully request consideration.

Claims 1-12, 18-20, 34-35 and 51-53 are allowed.

Claims 14 and 47 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. Accordingly, while not acceding to the propriety of the rejection of any base claim, and solely to expedite prosecution toward allowance, claim 14 has been amended to include the subject matter of independent claim 13, and claim 47 has been amended to include the subject matter of independent claim 46. Claims 13 and 46 have been cancelled. Accordingly, the rejections of claims 13 and 46 now are moot.

Claims 15-17, 21-33, 48-50 and 54-75 also have been cancelled herein as being drawn to non-elected species.

As a result of this amendment, claims 1-12, 14, 18-20, 34-45, 47, and 51-53 are pending, with claims 1, 6, 8, 14, 18, 34, 39, 41, 47, and 51 being independent claims.

Applicants respectfully reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the subject matter of the non-elected species, as well as one or more continuation applications directed to the subject matter of the claims prior to the amendments herein.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

Applicants respectfully point out to the Examiner that copies of initialed PTO Forms-1449, indicating review by the Examiner of the references listed thereon, have not been received by the Applicant for Information Disclosure Statements filed on the following dates (as indicated in PAIR):

- November 6, 2006 (first listed reference to Barnes)
- March 14, 2003 (first listed reference to Chliwnyj)
- April 15, 2002 (first listed reference to Motooka)

Applicants request the Examiner to provide initialed copies of these forms at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' representative at the telephone number indicated below to discuss any outstanding issues relating to the allowability of the application.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825, reference C1104.70095US00.

Dated: January 31, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By / Joseph Teja, Jr. /
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